

STRATEGIES TO FIGHT HIGH ENERGY PRICES MAY THREATEN A JUST AND GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

German, Greek and Spanish experts discuss their country's strategies as Europe races against time to reduce dependency on Russian gas.

Frankfurt am Main/ Bilbao, 20 July 2022.

As energy prices skyrocket, EU Member states introduce various short and mid-term policies to protect their citizens and reduce dependency from Russian gas. Energy system modellers, researchers and NGOs gathered on the 13th of July 2022 at the University of Deusto, in Bilbao and online to explore how Greece, Spain and Germany are facing the energy price crisis and how the large-scale implementation of a special energy tariff can impact how people use energy.

"We are in the situation of watching as the glacier of the energy system is collapsing," commented Philipp Heilmaier (DENA, German Energy Agency) about Germany's efforts to provide enough energy for the upcoming winter. "We need to turn away from fossil fuel, embrace renewable energy and focus in diversification of our energy system." he added.

"A potential collapse of the economy, thus disrupting incentives in renewable energy investments poses a threat to a just and green transition" added Jorge Fernández (ORKESTRA, Spain) commenting on the so called Iberian Exception (the political agreement enabling a temporary mechanism to cap the gas price to result in electricity bills being halved for about 40%) and on the latest Spanish windfall tax on energy firms, which have benefited from surging prices.

"Such a gas price cap has a high impact on trade on the EU scale," says Maria Kannavou (E3Modelling, Greece), "introducing it in the entire EU market would jeopardize long term security needed in renewable energy investments."

Moving away from fossil fuel to renewable energy has now become more than a climate issue, it has now become a security issue. Policy decisions now come swiftly and with a direct impact on everyone's daily life. Modeling the impact of these decisions before they are made can help to design policies that benefit European citizens directly. Energy system modelers and researchers from all over Europe work together with a Spanish energy cooperative and municipalities to establish a unique toolkit combined with a so called Causal Model, analysing why and how we make decisions when using energy and human reactions to interventions like policy changes such as change of tariffs or investment incentives in renewable energy production. The so-called WHY model will allow the assessment of impacts of policies on energy systems as well as policy measures.

The WHY Project

why-h2020.eu



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FURTHER INFORMATION

[Watch the recording of the event](#)

[Read about the WHY Toolkit](#)

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THE WHY PROJECT

The comprehensive WHY model will be an important step to improve the planning of future energy supply and therefore help to design the energy supply of tomorrow. The EU-funded project "WHY" implements casual modelling to quantitatively analyses people's everyday decisions regarding energy consumption and their reactions to interventions. This will result in innovative methodologies for short- and long-term load forecasting which will be benchmarked in different use cases ranging from microgrid size to international contexts. The project started in September 2020 and will be completed in September of 2023. why-h2020.eu

